



PATENT  
Customer No. 22,852  
Attorney Docket No. 02887.0259

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: )  
)  
Junji SUGAMOTO et al. ) Group Art Unit: 2891  
)  
Application No.: 10/706,090 ) Examiner: Lee, Granvill D  
)  
Filed: November 13, 2003 ) Confirmation No. 7292  
)  
For: SEMICONDUCTOR WAFER )  
TREATMENT METHOD, )  
SEMICONDUCTOR WAFER )  
INSPECTION METHOD, )  
SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE )  
DEVELOPMENT METHOD AND )  
SEMICONDUCTOR WAFER )  
TREATMENT APPARATUS )

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**  
**UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c)**

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(c), Applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 form. Applicants file this Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) after the period set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b), but before the mailing date of either a Final action, Quayle action, or a Notice of Allowance, to the undersigned representative's knowledge at the time of filing this IDS. This IDS supplements the IDS filed on March 25, 2004.

Under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c), this Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement includes the following certification as specified by Section 1.97(e): the foreign documents listed in this IDS were first cited in a Japanese Office Action mailed by the Japanese

Patent Office on October 18, 2005 in counterpart Japanese Application No. 2003-372019, and this IDS is being filed within three months of the mailing date of that communication.

Applicants note that U.S. Patent No. 4,243,473 is related to JP 53-81066.

Copies of the listed foreign documents are enclosed. A copy of the U.S. patent is not enclosed. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the listed documents and indicate their consideration by making appropriate notation on the attached PTO/SB/08 form.

In lieu of a statement of relevance or full translation of the non-English documents, Applicants enclose an English language translation of the Japanese Office Action, citing the documents and setting forth their relevance.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any or all of the documents as prior art against any claims in the application and Applicants determine that the listed documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, Applicants reserve the right to present to the Office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

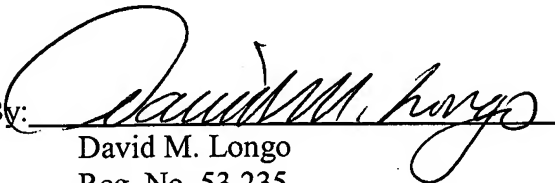
Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should any or all of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

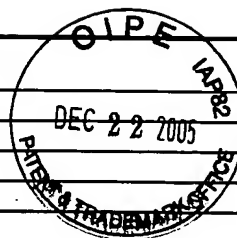
Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,  
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: December 22, 2005

By:   
David M. Longo  
Reg. No. 53,235

|  |            |    |   |                          |                   |  |
|--|------------|----|---|--------------------------|-------------------|--|
| IDS Form PTO/SB/08: Substitute for form 1449A/PTO  |            |    |   | <b>Complete if Known</b> |                   |  |
| <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE<br/>STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b><br><br><i>(Use as many sheets as necessary)</i> |            |    |   | Application Number       | 10/706,090        |  |
|  |            |    |   | Filing Date              | November 13, 2003 |  |
|  |            |    |   | First Named Inventor     | Junji SUGAMOTO    |  |
|  |            |    |   | Art Unit                 | 2825              |  |
|  |            |    |   | Examiner Name            | Lee, Granvill D.  |  |
| Attorney Docket Number   | 02887.0259 |    |   |                          |                   |  |
| Sheet  | 1          | of | 1 |                          |                   |  |



| U.S. PATENTS AND PUBLISHED U.S. PATENT APPLICATIONS |                       |  |   |   |   |
|---|-----------------------|--|---|---|---|
| Examiner Initials                                   | Cite No. <sup>1</sup> | Document Number                          | Issue or Publication Date<br>MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear |
|   |                       | Number-Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known) |   |   |   |
|   |                       | US-4,243,473                             | 01/06/1981                              | Yamaguchi et al.                                |   |
|   |                       | US-                                      |   |   |   |
|   |                       | US-                                      |   |   |   |
|   |                       | US-                                      |   |   |   |
|   |                       | US-                                      |   |   |   |
|   |                       | US-                                      |   |   |   |
|   |                       | US-                                      |   |   |   |
|   |                       | US-                                      |   |   |   |
|   |                       | US-                                      |   |   |   |
|   |                       | US-                                      |   |   |   |
|   |                       | US-                                      |   |   |   |
|   |                       | US-                                      |   |   |   |

**Note: Submission of copies of U.S. Patents and published U.S. Patent Applications is not required.**

| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS |                       |   |                                |   |   |                          |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|---|--------------------------------|---|---|--------------------------|
| Examiner Initials        | Cite No. <sup>1</sup> | Foreign Patent Document   | Publication Date<br>MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear | Translation <sup>8</sup> |
|                          |                       | Country Code <sup>3</sup> Number <sup>4</sup> Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known) |                                |   |   |                          |
|                          |                       | JP 52-107247  | 09/08/1977                     |   |   | No                       |
|                          |                       | JP 53-81066   | 07/18/1978                     |   |   | No                       |
|                          |                       | JP 9-199379   | 07/31/1997                     |   |   | Abstract                 |
|                          |                       |   |                                |   |   |                          |

| NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS |                       |   |                          |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|---|--------------------------|
| Examiner Initials               | Cite No. <sup>1</sup> | Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published. | Translation <sup>6</sup> |
|                                 |                       | Copy of Japanese Patent Office Action mailed by the Japanese Patent Office on October 18, 2005 in counterpart Japanese Application No. 2003-372019  | Yes                      |
|                                 |                       |   |                          |
|                                 |                       |   |                          |
|                                 |                       |   |                          |
|                                 |                       |   |                          |

|                    |                 |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| Examiner Signature | Date Considered |
|--------------------|-----------------|

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.